



General Assembly

February Session, 2016

***Raised Bill No. 5551***

LCO No. 2609



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:  
(ED)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE COMMISSIONER'S NETWORK OF SCHOOLS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 10-223h of the 2016 supplement to the general  
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
3 (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

4 (a) The Commissioner of Education shall establish, within available  
5 appropriations, a commissioner's network of schools to improve  
6 student academic achievement and directly intervene in low-  
7 performing schools. For these schools, the commissioner or  
8 commissioner's designee shall assume responsibility from the local or  
9 regional board of education, to the extent and in the manner the  
10 Department of Education determines necessary, for implementing the  
11 educational interests of the state in accordance with section 10-4 to  
12 improve student achievement and elevate the commissioner's network  
13 school out of low achieving status. The commissioner [may] shall select  
14 [not more than twenty-five schools in any single school year that have  
15 been classified as a category four school or a category five school

16 pursuant to section 10-223e to participate in the commissioner's  
17 network of schools] schools from the bottom five per cent of schools in  
18 the state, as identified under the state accountability system through  
19 state assessment data and considering other academic and student  
20 progress measures, including, but not limited to, graduation rates, that  
21 require highly intensive oversight, support and direction to be  
22 provided to the school, particular grade levels within the school or  
23 grade levels phased in over time to improve student achievement. The  
24 commissioner shall identify such schools not later than July 1, 2016, for  
25 the school year commencing July 1, 2016. For each school year  
26 thereafter, the department shall identify such schools by January first  
27 of the prior school year, and upon receipt of the approval of the State  
28 Board of Education of such schools being designated commissioner's  
29 network schools, shall designate the schools as commissioner's  
30 network schools. Not later than July 1, 2016, the commissioner shall  
31 identify a standard set of waivers from laws that hinder the ability of  
32 the Department of Education, or its designee, to effectively implement  
33 the provisions of this subsection in a commissioner's network school.  
34 The local or regional board of education shall retain responsibility for  
35 otherwise implementing the educational interests of the state and  
36 fulfilling any other duties set forth in this title. The commissioner shall  
37 issue guidelines regarding the development of turnaround plans, and  
38 such guidelines shall include, but not be limited to, annual deadlines  
39 for the submission or nonsubmission of a turnaround plan and annual  
40 deadlines for approval or rejection of turnaround plans. [The  
41 commissioner shall give preference for selection in the commissioner's  
42 network of schools to such schools (1) that volunteer to participate in  
43 the commissioner's network of schools, provided the local or regional  
44 board of education for such school and the representatives of the  
45 exclusive bargaining unit for certified employees chosen pursuant to  
46 section 10-153b mutually agree to participate in the commissioner's  
47 network of schools, (2) in which an existing collective bargaining  
48 agreement between the local or regional board of education for such  
49 school and the representatives of the exclusive bargaining unit for

50 certified employees chosen pursuant to section 10-153b will have  
51 expired for the school year in which a turnaround plan will be  
52 implemented, or (3) that are located in school districts that (A) have  
53 experience in school turnaround reform, or (B) previously received a  
54 school improvement grant pursuant to Section 1003(g) of Title I of the  
55 Elementary and Secondary Education Act, 20 USC 6301 et seq. The  
56 commissioner may select not more than five schools in any single  
57 school year from a single school district to participate in the  
58 commissioner's network of schools. Each school so selected shall begin  
59 implementation of a turnaround plan, as described in subsection (d) of  
60 this section.] Each school so selected shall participate in the  
61 commissioner's network of schools for at least three school years. [,  
62 and may continue such participation for an additional year, not to  
63 exceed two additional years, upon approval from the State Board of  
64 Education in accordance with the provisions of subsection (h) of this  
65 section.] After the third year, the commissioner's evaluation shall  
66 determine whether such school is prepared to exit the commissioner's  
67 network. In determining whether a school should exit the  
68 commissioner's network, the commissioner shall consider whether and  
69 the extent to which the local or regional board of education has the  
70 capacity to ensure that the school will maintain or improve its  
71 performance. If the commissioner determines that the school is ready  
72 to exit the commissioner's network, the local or regional board of  
73 education in which the commissioner's network school is located shall  
74 develop, in consultation with the department, a plan, subject to the  
75 approval by the commissioner, for the transition of the school back to  
76 full control by the local or regional board of education. The  
77 commissioner may also develop a plan to phase in transition of full  
78 control to the local or regional board of education, which may include  
79 the commissioner or the commissioner's designee retaining control  
80 over certain operations for a period of time prior to full transition of  
81 control of the school back to the local or regional board of education.  
82 The commissioner shall provide funding, technical assistance and  
83 operational support to schools participating in the commissioner's

84 network of schools and may provide financial support to teachers and  
85 administrators working at a school that is participating in the  
86 commissioner's network of schools. All costs attributable to developing  
87 and implementing a turnaround plan in excess of the ordinary  
88 operating expenses for such school shall be paid by the State Board of  
89 Education.

90 (b) [(1)] The Department of Education shall enter into a turnaround  
91 agreement with the local or regional board of education for such  
92 school. The turnaround agreement for each school shall identify which  
93 laws shall be waived pursuant to any waivers and the conditions  
94 under which such waivers shall be implemented. Upon the selection  
95 by the Commissioner of Education of a school for participation in the  
96 commissioner's network of schools, the [local or regional board of  
97 education for such school] commissioner, or the commissioner's  
98 designee, shall establish [a] an advisory turnaround committee for the  
99 school. [district. The turnaround committee shall consist of the  
100 following members: (A) Two appointed by the local or regional board  
101 of education, at least one of whom shall be an administrator employed  
102 by such board of education and at least one of whom shall be the  
103 parent or guardian of a student enrolled in the school district for such  
104 board of education; (B) three appointed by the exclusive bargaining  
105 unit for teachers chosen pursuant to section 10-153b, at least two of  
106 whom shall be teachers employed by such board of education and at  
107 least one of whom shall be the parent or guardian of a student enrolled  
108 in the school district for such board of education; and (C) the  
109 Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee. The  
110 superintendent of schools for the district, or the superintendent's  
111 designee, where such school is located shall be a nonvoting ex-officio  
112 member and serve as the chairperson of the turnaround committee.]  
113 The commissioner shall appoint members to a turnaround committee,  
114 which shall include parents of the school, members of the community  
115 of the district, and representatives of the district and the exclusive  
116 bargaining unit for teachers pursuant to section 10-153b. The

117 turnaround committee of the school shall advise on the development  
118 of the turnaround agreement and present a recommendation to the  
119 Department of Education for the proposed turnaround model to be  
120 implemented.

121 [(2) The turnaround committee, in consultation with the school  
122 governance council, as described in section 10-223j, for a school  
123 selected to participate in the commissioner's network of schools, shall  
124 (A) assist the Department of Education in conducting the operations  
125 and instructional audit pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, (B)  
126 develop a turnaround plan for such school in accordance with the  
127 provisions of subsection (d) of this section and guidelines issued by the  
128 commissioner, and (C) monitor the implementation of such  
129 turnaround plan.]

130 (c) Following the establishment of a turnaround committee, the  
131 Department of Education shall conduct, in consultation with the local  
132 or regional board of education for a school selected to participate in the  
133 commissioner's network of schools, the school governance council for  
134 such school and such turnaround committee, an operations and  
135 instructional audit, as described in subparagraph (A) of subdivision (2)  
136 of subsection (e) of section 10-223e, for such school. Such operations  
137 and instructional audit shall be conducted pursuant to guidelines  
138 issued by the department and shall determine the extent to which the  
139 school (1) has established a strong family and community connection  
140 to the school; (2) has a positive school environment, as evidenced by a  
141 culture of high expectations, a safe and orderly workplace, and that  
142 address other nonacademic factors that impact student achievement,  
143 such as students' social, emotional, arts, cultural, recreational and  
144 health needs; (3) has effective leadership, as evidenced by the school  
145 principal's performance appraisals, track record in improving student  
146 achievement, ability to lead turnaround efforts, and managerial skills  
147 and authority in the areas of scheduling, staff management,  
148 curriculum implementation and budgeting; (4) has effective teachers  
149 and support staff as evidenced by performance evaluations, policies to

150 retain staff determined to be effective and who have the ability to be  
151 successful in the turnaround effort, policies to prevent ineffective  
152 teachers from transferring to the schools, and job-embedded, ongoing  
153 professional development informed by the teacher evaluation and  
154 support programs that are tied to teacher and student needs; (5) uses  
155 time effectively as evidenced by the redesign of the school day, week,  
156 or year to include additional time for student learning and teacher  
157 collaboration; (6) has a curriculum and instructional program that is  
158 based on student needs, is research-based, rigorous and aligned with  
159 state academic content standards, and serves all children, including  
160 students at every achievement level; and (7) uses evidence to inform  
161 decision-making and for continuous improvement, including by  
162 providing time for collaboration on the use of data. Such operations  
163 and instructional audit shall be informed by an inventory of the  
164 following: (A) Before and after school programs, (B) any school-based  
165 health centers, family resource centers or other community services  
166 offered at the school, including, but not limited to, social services,  
167 mental health services and parenting support programs, (C) whether  
168 scientific research-based interventions are being fully implemented at  
169 the school, (D) resources for scientific research-based interventions  
170 during the school year and summer school programs, (E) resources for  
171 gifted and talented students, (F) the length of the school day and the  
172 school year, (G) summer school programs, (H) alternative education,  
173 as defined in section 10-74j, if any, offered to students at the school, (I)  
174 the number of teachers employed at the school and the number of  
175 teachers who have left the school in each of the previous three school  
176 years, (J) student mobility, including the number of students who have  
177 been enrolled in and left the school, (K) the number of students whose  
178 primary language is not English, (L) the number of students receiving  
179 special education services, (M) the number of truants, (N) the number  
180 of students who are eligible for free or reduced price lunches, (O) the  
181 number of students who are eligible for HUSKY A, (P) the curricula  
182 used at the school, (Q) the reading curricula and programs for  
183 kindergarten to grade three, inclusive, if any, at the school, (R) arts and

184 music programs offered at the school, (S) physical education programs  
185 offered and periods for recess or physical activity, (T) the number of  
186 school psychologists at the school and the ratio of school psychologists  
187 to students at the school, (U) the number of social workers at the  
188 school and the ratio of social workers to students at the school, (V) the  
189 teacher and administrator performance evaluation program, including  
190 the frequency of performance evaluations, how such evaluations are  
191 conducted and by whom, the standards for performance ratings and  
192 follow-up and remediation plans and the aggregate results of teacher  
193 performance evaluation ratings conducted pursuant to section 10-151b  
194 and any other available measures of teacher effectiveness, (W)  
195 professional development activities and programs, (X) teacher and  
196 student access to technology inside and outside of the classroom, (Y)  
197 student access to and enrollment in mastery test preparation programs,  
198 (Z) the availability of textbooks, learning materials and other supplies,  
199 (AA) student demographics, including race, gender and ethnicity, (BB)  
200 chronic absenteeism, and (CC) preexisting school improvement plans,  
201 for the purpose of (i) determining why such school improvement plans  
202 have not improved student academic performance, and (ii) identifying  
203 governance, legal, operational, staffing or resource constraints that  
204 contributed to the lack of student academic performance at such school  
205 and should be addressed, modified or removed for such school to  
206 improve student academic performance.

207 (d) Following the operations and instructional audit for the school  
208 selected to participate in the commissioner's network of schools, the  
209 turnaround committee shall develop a turnaround plan for such school  
210 [. The school governance council for each turnaround school may  
211 recommend to the turnaround committee for the school district one of  
212 the turnaround models described in subparagraphs (A) to (F),  
213 inclusive, of subdivision (3) of this subsection. The turnaround  
214 committee may accept such recommendation or may choose a different  
215 turnaround model for inclusion in the turnaround plan submitted  
216 under this subsection. The turnaround plan for such school shall (1)

217 include a description of how such turnaround plan will improve  
218 student academic achievement in the school, (2) address deficiencies  
219 identified in the operations and instructional audit, and (3) utilize one  
220 of the following turnaround models: (A) A CommPACT school, as  
221 described in section 10-74g, (B) a social development model, (C) the  
222 management, administration or governance of the school to be the  
223 responsibility of a regional educational service center, a public or  
224 private institution of higher education located in the state, or, subject  
225 to the provisions of subsection (e) of this section, an approved  
226 educational management organization, (D) a school described in  
227 section 10-74f, (E) a model developed by the turnaround committee  
228 that utilizes strategies, methods and best practices that have been  
229 proven to be effective in improving student academic performance,  
230 including, but not limited to, strategies, methods and best practices  
231 used at public schools, interdistrict magnet schools and charter schools  
232 or collected by the commissioner pursuant to subsection (f) of this  
233 section, (F) a community school, as described in section 10-74i, or (G) a  
234 model developed in consultation with the commissioner or by the  
235 commissioner subject to the provisions of subsection (e) of this section.  
236 The turnaround plan shall not assign the management, administration  
237 or governance of such school to a (i) for-profit corporation, or (ii) a  
238 private not-for-profit organization that is exempt from taxation under  
239 Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any  
240 subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States,  
241 as from time to time amended, other than a public or private  
242 institution of higher education located in the state or, subject to the  
243 provisions of subsection (e) of this section, an approved not-for-profit  
244 educational management organization, as defined in subsection (e) of  
245 this section. Such turnaround plan may include proposals changing  
246 the hours and schedules of teachers and administrators at such school,  
247 the length and schedule of the school day, the length and calendar of  
248 the school year, the amount of time teachers shall be present in the  
249 school beyond the regular school day and the hiring or reassignment  
250 of teachers or administrators at such school. If a turnaround committee

251 does not develop a turnaround plan, or if the commissioner  
252 determines that a turnaround plan developed by a turnaround  
253 committee is deficient, the commissioner may develop a turnaround  
254 plan for such school in accordance with the provisions of this  
255 subsection and, if the commissioner deems necessary, the  
256 commissioner may appoint a district improvement officer for such  
257 school to implement the provisions of the turnaround plan developed  
258 by the commissioner.] that shall include a turnaround agreement to be  
259 entered into by the local or regional board of education and the  
260 Department of Education. Such agreement shall require a simple  
261 majority vote by the entire turnaround committee to approve the  
262 recommendation of the committee to be made to the Department of  
263 Education. Should the committee not reach majority vote, the  
264 commissioner, or commissioner's designee, may unilaterally require  
265 the implementation of specific operating and working conditions and  
266 determine the turnaround model used in each school. Such turnaround  
267 agreement shall include, but not be limited to, the following elements:  
268 (1) The model of school turnaround to be implemented, (2) a plan for  
269 the operation of the commissioner's network school and the  
270 monitoring and oversight of such school by the Department of  
271 Education, (3) annual and interim measurable benchmarks for  
272 progress toward the goal of removing the school from low achieving  
273 status, and (4) other provisions required by the model of school  
274 turnaround or identified by the department. Such turnaround  
275 agreement shall be entered into by the Department of Education not  
276 later than one hundred twenty days from the date the school is  
277 designated as a commissioner's network school, except that the  
278 Department of Education may grant a planning year for the school.  
279 During this planning year, the Department of Education may direct  
280 funds to the planning of the commissioner's network school. If the  
281 local or regional board of education and Department of Education  
282 cannot agree on the terms of the turnaround agreement during the  
283 negotiation period, the commissioner, or commissioner's designee,  
284 may operate the commissioner's network school through the

285 Department of Education or designate a receiver or any other entity to  
286 operate the commissioner's network school. The Department of  
287 Education shall support the identification and recruitment of effective  
288 turnaround leaders and operators through an annual state review and  
289 preapproval process and shall make such list of leaders and operators  
290 available to the turnaround committee. Such commissioner's designee  
291 or entity may be granted authority up to and including the powers of  
292 the superintendent and school board for the specific school, and is  
293 directly responsible for reporting results to the commissioner. The  
294 turnaround plan shall direct all resources and funding to programs  
295 and services delivered at such school for the educational benefit of the  
296 students enrolled at such school and be transparent and accountable to  
297 the local community. The State Board of Education shall approve the  
298 turnaround plan developed by a turnaround committee before a  
299 school may implement such turnaround plan. For the school year  
300 commencing July 1, 2016, the commissioner may identify a designee,  
301 such as a receiver, or a school leader or operator to oversee schools in  
302 the commissioner's network. The commissioner's designee shall be  
303 vested with the duties, rights and responsibilities delegated by the  
304 commissioner and shall report to and serve at the pleasure of the  
305 commissioner and shall be retained and compensated by the  
306 Department of Education. The receiver shall be deemed the successor  
307 party in interest and deemed to be in privity of contract for all lawful  
308 purposes. The receiver may be provided additional responsibilities by  
309 the commissioner not inconsistent with the provisions of this section.

310 [(e) (1) For the school year commencing July 1, 2012, the  
311 Commissioner of Education shall develop one turnaround plan for a  
312 school selected to participate in the commissioner's network of schools.  
313 Such turnaround plan shall be implemented for the school year  
314 commencing July 1, 2012. Such plan may assign the management,  
315 administration or governance of such school to an approved not-for-  
316 profit educational management organization, and shall negotiate  
317 matters relating to such turnaround plan in accordance with the

318 provisions of subsection (c) of section 10-153s.

319 (2) For the school year commencing July 1, 2012, the Commissioner  
320 of Education may approve a turnaround plan for a school selected to  
321 participate in the commissioner's network of schools that assigns the  
322 management, administration or governance of such school to an  
323 approved not-for-profit educational management organization, and  
324 shall negotiate matters relating to such turnaround plan in accordance  
325 with the provisions of subsection (c) of section 10-153s. Such  
326 turnaround plan shall be implemented for the school year  
327 commencing July 1, 2012.

328 (3) The commissioner shall permit not more than four total  
329 turnaround plans for schools selected to participate in the  
330 commissioner's network of schools implementing turnaround plans  
331 beginning in the school year commencing July 1, 2013, or July 1, 2014,  
332 to assign the management, administration or governance of such  
333 school to an approved not-for-profit educational management  
334 organization, provided the commissioner shall not permit such  
335 assignment in a turnaround plan to more than three schools in a single  
336 school year. If the commissioner does not approve a turnaround plan  
337 under subdivision (2) of this subsection, the commissioner may  
338 approve one additional turnaround plan for a school selected to  
339 participate in the commissioner's network of schools that assigns the  
340 management, administration or governance of such school to an  
341 approved not-for-profit educational management organization to be  
342 implemented in the school year commencing July 1, 2013, or July 1,  
343 2014.

344 (4) For purposes of this section, and section 10-223i, "approved not-  
345 for-profit educational management organization" means a not-for-  
346 profit organization that is exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3)  
347 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent  
348 corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as from time  
349 to time amended, that (A) operates a state charter school located in the

350 state that has a record of student academic success for students  
351 enrolled in such state charter school, or (B) has experience and a record  
352 of success in improving student achievement for low income or low  
353 performing students through measures, including, but not limited to,  
354 reconstituting schools while, if applicable, respecting existing contracts  
355 of employees of such schools.

356 (f) The Commissioner of Education may partner with any public or  
357 private institution of higher education in the state, for a period not to  
358 exceed twelve months, to assist the Department of Education in  
359 collecting, compiling and replicating strategies, methods and best  
360 practices that have been proven to be effective in improving student  
361 academic performance in public schools, interdistrict magnet schools  
362 and charter schools. The commissioner shall make such strategies,  
363 methods and best practices available to local and regional boards of  
364 education and turnaround committees for use in developing a  
365 turnaround model, pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, and in  
366 implementing the turnaround plan for a school that is participating in  
367 the commissioner's network of schools.

368 (g) Nothing in this section shall alter the collective bargaining  
369 agreements applicable to the administrators and teachers employed by  
370 the local or regional board of education, subject to the provisions of  
371 sections 10-153a to 10-153n, inclusive, and such collective bargaining  
372 agreements shall be considered to be in operation at schools  
373 participating in the commissioner's network of schools, except to the  
374 extent the provisions are modified by any memorandum of  
375 understanding between the local or regional board of education and  
376 the representatives of the exclusive bargaining units for certified  
377 employees, chosen pursuant to section 10-153b, or are modified by a  
378 turnaround plan, including, but not limited to, any election to work  
379 agreement pursuant to such turnaround plan for such schools and  
380 negotiated in accordance with the provisions of section 10-153s.

381 (h) Each school participating in the commissioner's network of

382 schools shall participate for three school years, and may continue such  
383 participation for an additional year, not to exceed two additional years,  
384 upon approval from the State Board of Education.]

385 (e) The commissioner shall develop criteria to identify exemplary  
386 teachers and administrators, which may be based on performance  
387 evaluations conducted pursuant to section 10-151b, as amended by this  
388 act, and other available measures, and provide incentives, including,  
389 but not limited to, financial incentives and enhanced career ladder and  
390 career advancement opportunities to encourage such teachers and  
391 administrators to work and excel in commissioner's network schools.  
392 Any teacher or administrator assigned to a school prior to its  
393 designation as a commissioner's network school (1) may apply for a  
394 position in such school after such school has been designated as a  
395 commissioner's network school, and (2) if electing not to apply for or if  
396 not selected for a position in the commissioner's network school, shall  
397 be assigned or transferred to an available position at another school  
398 under the jurisdiction of the local or regional board of education for  
399 which such teacher or administrator is assigned, which may include  
400 special teaching positions that provide coverage for teachers  
401 participating in professional development and other related activities,  
402 which shall be based on performance evaluations conducted pursuant  
403 to section 10-151b, employment qualifications, special skills or  
404 expertise and the needs of the school district, provided any such  
405 assignment or transfer shall not be on the basis of seniority or tenure,  
406 unless all considerations are otherwise equal. No teacher or  
407 administrator shall be employed in a commissioner's network school  
408 without the mutual consent of the teacher or administrator and the  
409 department, or its designee as identified pursuant to subparagraph (B)  
410 of subdivision (6) of this subsection, regardless of the seniority or  
411 tenure status of the teacher or administrator or any agreement to the  
412 contrary. When selecting applicants for positions in a commissioner's  
413 network school, the department, or its designee, shall give priority to  
414 candidates who are employed in the local or regional board of

415 education in which the commissioner's network school is located and  
416 who are determined to be qualified by the department, or its designee,  
417 for a position in the school. Any teacher or administrator selected to  
418 work in a commissioner's network school shall (A) be considered an  
419 employee of the local or regional board of education in which the  
420 commissioner's network school is located during the period in which  
421 such teacher or administrator is assigned to such commissioner's  
422 network school, (B) be entitled to a leave of absence without pay from  
423 the local or regional board of education in which such teacher or  
424 administrator was employed immediately prior to the assignment in  
425 the commissioner's network school, so that such teacher or  
426 administrator may be assigned to a commissioner's network school,  
427 provided, at any time after the completion of such teacher's or  
428 administrator's assignment in the commissioner's network school, such  
429 teacher or administrator may return to the position in which such  
430 teacher or administrator was previously employed, or a comparable  
431 position, and such leave of absence shall not be deemed to be an  
432 interruption of service for purposes of seniority, teachers' retirement  
433 credit or attaining tenure, (C) be compensated and entitled to benefits  
434 and leave under the provisions of the collective bargaining agreement  
435 between the exclusive bargaining unit for teachers pursuant to section  
436 10-153b and the local or regional board of education for the school  
437 district in which the commissioner's network school is located, (D) be  
438 eligible to receive incentives, during the period in which the teacher or  
439 administrator is assigned to the commissioner's network school,  
440 provided the provision and receipt of such incentives shall not be  
441 subject to collective bargaining, and (E) be permitted to use total  
442 compensation, including the salary and any financial incentives in  
443 calculating the average annual salary, pursuant to section 10-183b, for  
444 such teacher or administrator. This section shall not prohibit the  
445 commissioner or commissioner's designee from reassigning or  
446 terminating the contract of a teacher or administrator pursuant to  
447 section 10-151. The provisions of sections 10-153a to 10-153n, inclusive,  
448 shall not apply to any teacher or administrator who is assigned to a

449 commissioner's network school, except (i) such teacher or  
450 administrator shall, for the purposes of ratification of an agreement  
451 only, be permitted to vote as a member of the teacher or administrator  
452 bargaining unit, as appropriate, for the local or regional board of  
453 education in which the commissioner's network school is located, and  
454 (ii) insofar as any such provisions protect any entitlement of such  
455 teacher or administrator to benefits or leave accumulated or accrued  
456 prior to the teacher or administrator being employed in a  
457 commissioner's network school. The provision of any financial or other  
458 incentives, including, but not limited to, compensation or the  
459 availability of professional coverage positions, shall not be subject to  
460 collective bargaining pursuant to sections 10-153a to 10-153n, inclusive.

461 (f) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes to the  
462 contrary, funds shall be provided to commissioner's network schools  
463 (1) to assist with the implementation of turnaround models, (2) for  
464 operational costs of such schools, and (3) for additional compensation  
465 and other financial incentives for teachers and administrators assigned  
466 to a commissioner's network school. The amount of funding allocated  
467 to commissioner's network school shall be used exclusively for  
468 turnaround programming in such school.

469 (g) The Department of Education shall develop a comprehensive  
470 plan to encourage exemplary teachers and administrators, as identified  
471 by performance evaluations, conducted pursuant to section 10-151b,  
472 and other measures, to work in the state's lowest performing schools  
473 and school districts and enhance the education profession's career  
474 ladder in such schools. Such plan shall be approved by the State Board  
475 of Education. The State Board of Education shall provide funding to  
476 develop and implement such plan and shall adopt regulations, in  
477 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, or issue orders, as  
478 appropriate, to ensure that the plan is implemented. Such plan shall:  
479 (1) Encourage individuals to pursue and maintain careers in education  
480 in such schools and school districts; (2) identify professional and  
481 financial incentives, including, but not limited to, salary increases,

482 signing bonuses, stipends, housing subsidies and housing  
483 opportunities that will encourage exemplary teachers and  
484 administrators to work in and remain in such schools and school  
485 districts; and (3) expand the capacity of nonprofit and private  
486 organizations currently working in the state to stimulate teacher and  
487 administrator leadership and career advancement opportunities in  
488 such schools and school districts, and enable other such organizations  
489 to do the same.

490 (h) The commissioner shall annually evaluate the commissioner's  
491 network school to determine whether such school has made  
492 demonstrated progress towards bringing student achievement to  
493 acceptable levels, as determined by the Department of Education, and  
494 removing such school from low achieving status. The commissioner  
495 shall set academic and nonacademic performance and progress  
496 standards through annual and interim achievement assessments and  
497 other leading indicators of turnaround success as appropriate and  
498 shall annually publish report results to the State Board of Education. If  
499 the commissioner or commissioner's designee determines that the  
500 school has not made acceptable progress or the model of school  
501 turnaround is not successful, the commissioner may order (1) any  
502 action necessary to ensure compliance with or specific performance of  
503 a turnaround agreement be taken, (2) the school be phased out of  
504 operation, (3) the operation of the school be assigned to a receiver, new  
505 entity or the Department of Education, (4) any turnaround agreement  
506 be revised in accordance with the commissioner's directives, or (5) any  
507 combination of such orders. Before the end of the third year that a  
508 school is participating in the commissioner's network of schools, the  
509 commissioner shall conduct an evaluation to determine whether such  
510 school is prepared to exit the commissioner's network of schools. In  
511 determining whether such school may exit the commissioner's  
512 network of schools, the commissioner shall consider whether the local  
513 or regional board of education has the capacity to ensure that such  
514 school will maintain or improve its student academic performance. If

515 the commissioner determines that such school is ready to exit the  
516 commissioner's network of schools, the local or regional board of  
517 education for such school shall develop, [in consultation with] subject  
518 to the approval of the commissioner, a plan, subject to the approval by  
519 the State Board of Education, for the transition of such school back to  
520 full control by the local or regional board of education. [If such school  
521 is not ready to exit the commissioner's network of schools and  
522 participates in the commissioner's network of schools for an additional  
523 year, the commissioner shall conduct an evaluation in accordance with  
524 the provisions of this subsection. Before the end of the fifth year that a  
525 school is participating in the commissioner's network of schools, the  
526 commissioner shall develop, in consultation with the local or regional  
527 board of education for such school, a plan, subject to the approval by  
528 the State Board of Education, for the transition of such school back to  
529 full control by the local or regional board of education.] The  
530 commissioner may also develop a plan to phase in transition of full  
531 control to the local or regional board of education, which may include  
532 the commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, retaining control  
533 over certain operations by the commissioner, or commissioner's  
534 designee, for a period of time prior to full transition of control of the  
535 school back to the local or regional board of education.

536 (i) Not later than thirty days after the approval of the turnaround  
537 plan for a school selected to participate in the commissioner's network  
538 of schools by the State Board of Education, the Commissioner of  
539 Education shall submit the operations and instructional audit and the  
540 turnaround plan for such school to the joint standing committee of the  
541 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education,  
542 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a.

543 (j) (1) The Commissioner of Education shall annually submit a  
544 report on the academic performance of each school participating in the  
545 commissioner's network of schools to the joint standing committee of  
546 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to  
547 education, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a. Such

548 report shall include, but not be limited to, (A) the accountability index  
549 score, as defined in section 10-223e, for such school, (B) trends for the  
550 accountability index scores during the period that such school is  
551 participating in the commissioner's network of schools, (C)  
552 adjustments for subgroups of students at such school, including, but  
553 not limited to, students whose primary language is not English,  
554 students receiving special education services and students who are  
555 eligible for free or reduced price lunches, and (D) performance  
556 evaluation results in the aggregate for teachers and administrators at  
557 such school.

558 (2) The Commissioner of Education shall annually submit a report  
559 comparing and analyzing the academic performance of all the schools  
560 participating in the commissioner's network of schools to the joint  
561 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
562 matters relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of  
563 section 11-4a. Such report shall include, but not be limited to, (A) the  
564 accountability index score, as defined in section 10-223e, for the school,  
565 (B) trends for the accountability indices during the period that such  
566 schools are participating in the commissioner's network of schools, (C)  
567 adjustments for subgroups of students at such schools, including, but  
568 not limited to, students whose primary language is not English,  
569 students receiving special education services and students who are  
570 eligible for free or reduced price lunches, and (D) performance  
571 evaluation results in the aggregate for teachers and administrators at  
572 such schools.

573 (3) Following the expiration of the turnaround plan for each school  
574 participating in the commissioner's network of schools, the  
575 commissioner shall submit a final report that (A) evaluates such  
576 turnaround plan and the academic performance of such school during  
577 the period that such turnaround plan was in effect, and (B) makes  
578 recommendations for the operation of such school to the joint standing  
579 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
580 relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-

581 4a.

582 (4) Not later than January 1, 2020, the commissioner shall submit a  
583 report (A) evaluating the commissioner's network of schools and its  
584 effect on improving student academic achievement in participating  
585 schools, and (B) making any recommendations for the continued  
586 operation of the commissioner's network of schools to the joint  
587 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
588 matters relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of  
589 section 11-4a.

590 (k) The department shall conduct an audit of the local or regional  
591 board of education to ensure that such board is in compliance with the  
592 provisions of this section. If the department determines that a local or  
593 regional board of education is in violation of the provisions of this  
594 section, the department shall notify such board of such violation and  
595 provide such board an opportunity to comply. If such board fails to  
596 comply after such notice and opportunity, the commissioner may  
597 withhold from such board's town or towns a sum payable under  
598 section 10-262i in the amount necessary to comply with this section  
599 and shall ensure that such funds are used to provide funding, support  
600 or resources to the commissioner's network school.

601 (l) The commissioner may at any time place a school identified for  
602 intervention pursuant to this section on probation pursuant to meeting  
603 certain conditions as identified by the commissioner with clear student  
604 progress measures to meet over a specified period of time, or close the  
605 school and reassign the students of that school to other schools within  
606 the district.

607 Sec. 2. Section 10-153s of the general statutes is repealed. (*Effective*  
608 *July 1, 2016*)

<p>This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:</p>
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Section 1	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	10-223h
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	Repealer section

***Statement of Purpose:***

To make revisions to the commissioner's network of schools.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*